

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

FMC-04 SS-20 NSC-10 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07 L-03 DRC-01

/109 W

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P R 181625Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

USDA/FAS PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9347

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 6772

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PN, CS, ETRN, ENRG

SUBJ: SHIP BUNKERING IN PANAMA

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 4433; (B) PANAMA 6434; (C) STATE 234084

1. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO AVOID SUGGESTING PANAMA (RP) OR CANAL ZONE (CZ) TERMINALS AS POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR BUNKER FUELS. MAJOR OIL COMPANIES SUPPLYING SUCH FUELS IN RP AND CZ HAVE INSTITUTED GLOBAL CONTROL OF DELIVERIES AND SHIPMENTS AT HEAD OFFICES NEW YORK, LONDON (SHELL) AND SAN FRANCISCO (CHEVRON).

2. IN CASE OF SHIP GRAND INTEGRITY DESCRIBED REF A, CARGILL, AS LARGE GRAIN DEALER, IS LIKELY TO HAVE BUNKER CONTRACT UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH IT MIGHT OBTAIN NEEDED FUEL AT NEAREST BUNKER FACILITY

ON ITS RETURN VOYAGE TO US. CARGILL NO DOUBT ALSO
KNOWN BY NOW THAT OIL COMPANY HEADQUARTERS MUST BE APPROACHED
FOR ANY DELIVERIES IN RP, CZ OR OTHER BUNKER STATIONS.

3. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON BUNKERING SITUATION HERE WAS
CONTAINED REF B AND IS REPEATED FOR INFO CENTRAL AMERICAN
POSTS. INCREASED BUNKERING IN CZ DURING RECENT MONTHS HAS
MADE CANAL FACILITIES WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST BUNKERING STATION.
IN ANTICIPATION OF MORE CRITICAL SUPPLY SITUATION, LOCAL
BRANCHES OF OIL COMPANIES, UNDER HEAD OFFICE DIRECTION, ARE
HUSBANDING FUEL, GIVING PRIORITY TO REGULAR CUSTOMERS UNDER
PRIOR COMMITMENTS. THEY ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE BUNKER SERVICE
WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION AND ARE RELUCTANT TO SEEK AUTHORIZAT-
ION FOR SHIPS/AGENTS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE SPOT PURCHASE.

4. PANAMA CANAL COMPANY (PC) OWNS STORAGE AND DELIVERY
SYSTEMS AT CANAL TERMINALS, BUT OIL COMPANIES OWN AND CONTROL
FUEL STOCKS AND CONTRACT FOR DELIVERIES TO SHIPS. THUS, OIL
COMPANIES, NOT PC, DETERMINE WHAT SHIPS RECEIVE BUNKERS, AND
THESE DECISIONS MADE ELSEWHERE. BOTH PC AND OIL COMPANIES ARE
AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS FOR THEMSELVES AS POSSIBLE TARGETS FOR
ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION IN DISPENSING SUPPLIES AND ARE
ATTEMPTING HANDLE BUNKERING IN SUCH WAY AS TO AVOID SUCH CHARGES.

5. EMBASSY HAS KEPT PC INFORMED ON BUNKER FUEL SITUATION BY
PASSING IT COPIES OF DEPTELS. DEPARTMENT IS REQUEST TO
INCLUDE PANCANAL ON FUTURE CABLES THIS SUBJECT TO ASSIST IT IN
GAUGING CANAL TRAFFIC.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, FUELING SYSTEMS, RATIONING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PANAMA06772
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731218/aaaaangw.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) SAN JOSE 4433; (B) PANAMA 6434.; (C) STATE 234084
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIP BUNKERING IN PANAMA
TAGS: EAGR, ETRN, ENRG, PN, CS, US, RQ
To: SAN JOSE STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005